GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1929
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2001
INCREASING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY CROSSINGS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether accidents are increasing on railway crossings;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the accidents;

(c) the number of over bridges due for construction on railway crossing in Gaya Parliamentary constituency; and

(d) the time by which these bridges are likely to be constructed and made operational?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) to (d) : A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1929 BY SHRI RAMJEE MANJH TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 29.11.2001 REGARDING INCREASING ACCIDENTS ON RAILWAY CROSSINGS

(a): Number of train accidents on Railway crossings in last three years has been as follows :-

Year	Manned Level Crossing	Unmanned Level Crossing	Total
1999-2000	26	67	93
2000-01	11	73	84
2001-02+	5	43	48

(Upto October, 2001)

+ Figures are provisional

Train accidents at manned level crossings have decreased, whereas at unmanned level crossings these have shown an increase. Accidents at unmanned level crossing take place primarily due to negligence of road users.

(b): Following steps have been taken to check level crossing accidents :-

1 . Proper Road Signs have been provided o n approaches to level crossings so that road vehicle drivers become aware of the existence of a level crossing gate.

2. Speed breakers/rumble strips have been provided on approaches to level crossing gates so that road vehicle drivers are reminded to reduce their speed.

3. Whistle boards are also provided alongside the rail track on approach to level crossings. Train drivers are required to whistle from the whistle board till such time as the train passes the level crossing gate in order to warn road users about the approaching train. Periodic drives are launched for checking whether drivers are actually whistling from such whistle boards.

4. For improving the safety at unmanned level crossing gates prototype electronic audio-visual warning devices have been installed on a trial basis at some selected level crossing gates.

5. Road users have still not got used to the faster speeds of Mail/Expresstrains. A train travelling at 90 KMPH covers 25m/sec. Thus, although to the road user the train appears to be 150 meters away, in terms of time it is only 6 seconds away. This message is being conveyed to them progressively by various publicity measures.

6. To educate road drivers about safety at unmanned level crossings, publicity campaigns are periodically launched through various media like quickies on TV, cinema slides, posters, talks on radio, newspaper advertisements and street plays.

7. Since accidents at unmanned level crossings take place due to negligence of road users, the State Governments can also help by exercising strict checks while issuing driving licences, specially to drivers of trucks, buses and other heavy vehicles. All Chief Secretaries have been requested to co-operate in educating road users.

8. Joint Ambush Checks with civil authorities are conducted to nab errant road vehicle drivers under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Railways Act, 1989.

9. Level crossings having very heavy traffic density are being progressively interlocked with signals on a planned basis.

10. In addition to interlocking of level crossing gates, telephones are also being gradually provided at all manned level crossing gates.

11. Surprise checks and night inspections are regularly conducted to check the alertness of gatemen.

(c) & (d): Level crossings having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs (TVU − a unit obtained by multiplyingthe number of road vehicles with the number of trains passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) are replaced by Road Over Bridges/RoadUnder Bridges on cost sharing basis otherwise on 'deposit' terms/BOT(Build, Operate & Transfer) basis. Proposals in either case are required to be sponsored by State Governmentfulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Works so sanctioned are progressing accordingly. The data regarding the above is maintained railway zone wise and not constituency wise.